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NEWSLETTER for 2020-2021 School year
St. Mary's Parish School
Week of December 13, 2020



Question: We understand that Moscow School District will not be calling snow days this year due to their hybrid approach to learning. How will we know if there are SNOW DAYS this year for St. Mary's?

Answer: Great question! We are planning on being open unless the weather is so bad such as with heavy snow, ice and wind that being out in it would be hazardous, we will be having school. Listen to the weather conditions and recommendations. We will be posting via emails, TV, radio announcements, etc. as we normally have done IF there is no school.

Question: Will there be guidelines regarding travel during the Christmas break and returning to school on January 4th?

Answer: Yes. There are a new set of guidelines that have just come out regarding travel and gatherings during the Christmas vacation and when it is safe for students to return to school. Dr. Beller will be sending these out by mid-week.....be on the lookout for them.



Items to note this week:

- Congratulations to **Brandon Shaughnessy**, a parent of children in the school. Brandon received his officer ranking in the U.S. Marines Corps and is graduating from the UI with a degree in Education this month.
- **Student Council's *Elves Workshop* is still happening this week.**
- **Friday, Dec. 18: Grade 4** will be the prayer leaders at **Mass** in the school gym at 9:00 a.m.---all parents are welcome....
- Starting **Dec. 21st** look for the ***Christmas Star*** in the skies. It has been 800 years since the planets Jupiter and Saturn align so closely in the night sky that they'll almost appear to collide from our vantage point here on Earth, creating a radiant point of light often referred to as the "Star of Bethlehem" or the "Christmas Star." Attached is more information about this great event. It's a wonderful way to end 2020!
- **Christmas break:** December 21 through January 3rd, 2021....
- **Boxtops program:** we are still collecting Boxtops. You can still clip old Boxtops, email receipts from online shopping or use the app to scan receipts. Also, if you bring in receipts to the school office, Joy Newlan will be happy to scan them for you. *Attached is the flyer about the Boxtops Program. Please share the information with your relatives and friends too.*
- **Reminder:** **All students** are to be in the **new school uniform** by January 8, 2021 (first Mass of 2021).
- Attached is information regarding an **After-School Art Program** at the Pritchard Gallery starting in January.

- Anyone interested in having a piano? Please contact the school office—a person has one to donate to a family.



Information about upcoming Church services/sacraments:

- ❖ After the 11:00 a.m. Mass on **Sunday, Dec. 20 the Sacrament of Healing** will be given.
- ❖ If you are planning on **attending Mass for Christmas**, it will be important to have a reservation (due to restrictions around Covid). There are still some spaces available at both the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 on December 25th. Please call the Parish Office (208-882-4813) and ask Lauren, secretary, about a reservation.
- ❖ There are now 4 opportunities to attend Mass on a weekend: Saturday at 5:00; Sundays at: 8:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

Do you want lower taxes this year?

YES, it IS true

AND the by-product will be assisting in your child’s education at St. Mary’s

GREAT news for all who pay taxes:

St. Mary’s School is a federally recognized not for profit organization, and this year under the CARES Act, cash gifts given by the end of this year are deductible up to 100% of an individual’s adjusted gross income (AGI). Normally, this is limited to 30%.

NOTE: Even if you don’t itemize your taxes you can deduct up to a \$300 donation.

This is only available this year(2020)!

Further information: For anyone wanting to give *more than 30% of AGI and receive a full deduction*, gifts must be in cash (not securities or real property). For example, a donor may find it better to sell appreciated securities, realize the capital gain and raise their AGI. *In addition, giving beyond the 100% limitation can be carried forward and used over the next five years!*

So, giving to St. Mary’s School this year could stretch your donation for years to come. Please consult your own tax advisor if needed.

Attachments:

- Boxtops info
- Christmas reflections for you and your family (two pages)
- Christmas Star experience is coming December 21st
- After School Arts Program at Pritchard Gallery